

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

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TAGS: OREP (CODEL JAVITS)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS TO ATHENS MARCH 28-29

REF: (A) ATHENS 2578 (B) ATHENS 2597

1. FOR THE RECORD, THERE FOLLOWS A REPORT ON THE VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, ALBERT A. LAKELAND, TO ATHENS MARCH 28-29. SOME OF THIS INFORMATION WAS REPORTED EARLIER BY CABLE AND TELEPHONE. DURING HIS SHORT STAY HERE THE SENATOR MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FORMER PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS (AN OLD FRIEND) AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE AMBASSADOR, HAD A ONE HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTE DISCUSSION TOGETHER WITH THE AMBASSADOR WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, AND ALSO PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT. THE SENATOR WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS UPON ARRIVAL THE EVENING OF MARCH 28 (REF A) AND ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY TO JOURNALISTS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER (REF B).

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2. THE SENATOR'S DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS CENTERED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE SUBJECT OF CYPRUS AND THE EMBARGO. AT THE OPENING OF THEIR MEETING, SENATOR JAVITS TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HE HAD COME AWAY FROM HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT WITH THE FEELING THAT ECEVIT BELIEVED THAT IF LEFT ALONE HE AND CARAMANLIS COULD VERY QUICKLY SETTLE ALL

PROBLEMS. CARAMANLIS SAID HE AGREED THAT PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY COULD BE SOLVED EASILY PROVIDED THERE WAS REASON AND GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES. HE THEN REITERATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY VANCE IN JANUARY TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY BEGIN WITH CYPRUS, REPEATING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PRESENTATION HE HAD MADE THEN ON THE SUBJECT.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GREEK SIDE HAS MADE THE BASIC CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS, ACCEPTING "EVERYTHING TURKEY WANTS" I.E., BIZONALITY AND A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. DESPITE THESE GREEK CONCESSIONS, HOWEVER, THE TURKS CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO INDICATE WHAT THEIR SPECIFIC TERMS FOR A SETTLEMENT ARE. THUS, IN THE GREEK VIEW, THE KEY TO A SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS, AND TO RESOLUTION OF ALL RELATED PROBLEMS, IS IN ANKARA AND NOT ATHENS.

4. SENATOR JAVITS THEN EXPLAINED THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. IT WAS CHANGING, HE SAID, BUT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REPEAL THE EMBARGO IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. IN THE SENATOR'S VIEW IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO VOTE FOR THE DCA, ALTHOUGH THIS TOO WOULD REQUIRE A HARD STRUGGLE. THE SENATOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE NOR, AT THIS POINT, HOW HE HIMSELF WOULD VOTE. A BRIEF INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION THEN ENSURED OVER THE US-GREEK DCA.

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5. THE SENATOR SAID THAT PERHAPS ONE WAY TO FIND A SOLUTION WOULD BE TO RECREATE THE VENIZELOS-ATATURK ERA OF GOOD FEELING. SHOULD THERE BE A RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES AS A RESULT OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, SENATOR JAVITS ADDED, THE CONGRESS WOULD APPLAUD AND BE GENEROUS. IN THE ABSENCE, HOWEVER, OF A MOVE BY ECEVIT OR CARAMANLIS OR THE UNSYG, THE CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING AND IN HIS VIEW MOVEMENT ON THE TURKISH DCA SEEMED THE MOST LIKELY.

6. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS INDICATED THAT HE HAD TAKEN MODERATE AND REASONABLE POSITIONS IN DEALING WITH THE TURKS. IF THE TURKS WOULD RESPOND ON THE SAME BASIS, HE THOUGHT SOLUTIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE THEN REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AS SEEN BY THE GREEKS, EMPHASIZING HIS WELL-KNOWN THREE-POINT FORMULA. IF THE TURKS ACCEPTED THIS FORMULA THE AEGEAN DISPUTE WOULD BE SETTLED. ON CYPRUS, THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS INDEPENDENT, HAS THE INITIATIVE. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT CANNOT IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT.

7. NOTHING STARTLINGLY NEW EMERGED FROM THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER DURING WHICH THE LATTER ESSENTIALLY RESTATED THE GREEK POSITION. IN SAYING GOODBYE, SENATOR JAVITS

INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEET WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF MAY
FOR THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS
ACCEPTED THE INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE, HE SAID THAT HIS ABILITY
TO DO SO WOULD DEPEND ON OBLIGATIONS HE MIGHT HAVE IN CONNECTION
WITH THE SUMMIT.
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